

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 01022 041450Z

43

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 ISO-00 DIWY-01 PA-01 PRS-01

USIA-06 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 EA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1697

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, IWY, UN, ZA

SUBJECT: WORLD CONFERENCE OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR

REF: STATE 119806, 129496

1. PRESS JUNE 2 REPORTED THAT PRESIDENT HAS DESIGNATED MISS PETRONELLA KAWANDAMI AND MRS. VERONICA MUMBA TO REPRESENT ZAMBIA AT WCIWY CONFERENCE IN MEXICO CITY.

2. MISS KAWANDAMI IS 31-YEAR-OLD FORMER SECONDARY SCHOOL HEADMISTRESS WHO WAS APPOINTED MEMBER OF RULING UNITED NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE PARTY'S (UNIP) CENTRAL COMMITTEE IN AUGUST, 1973. ON CENTRAL COMMITTEE, THEORETICALLY COUNTRY'S SUPREME POLICY-MAKING BODY, SHE HAS SERVED AS VICE CHAIRMAN OF YOUTH AND SPORTS SUBCOMMITTEE AND HAS BEEN ENERGETIC IN ADDRESSING STUDENT, YOUTH, AND WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS. SHE IS AN ATTRACTIVE, INTELLIGENT YOUNG WOMAN WHO SEEMS TO STAND WELL WITH HER COLLEAGUES. IS APPROACHABLE BY AMERICANS.

3. MRS. MUBA IS LONG-TIME UNIP ORGANIZER IN AREA OF WOMEN'S ACTIVITIES. SHE SERVED IN VARIOUS UNIP PROVINCIAL ASSIGNMENTS AND PN 1966 MADE TWO-WEEK STUDY TOUR OF USSR. CURRENTLY
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PAGE 02 LUSAKA 01022 041450Z

PUBLICITY SECRETARY OF UNIP WOMEN'S BRIGADE AT PARTY HEAD-

QUARTERS IN LUSAKA. NO OTHER INFO AVAILABLE.

4. BEGIN LOU. COMMENT: SINCE 1973 DECLARATION OF "ONE PARTY PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY", ZAMBIA HAS BEEN SEEKING TO MOBILIZE ALL WOMEN'S ACTIVITIES UNDER LEADERSHIP OF PARTY'S WOMEN'S BRIGADE. WOMEN HAVE BEEN URGED TO TAKE LEADING ROLE IN FIGHTING HUNGER, POVERTY, IGNORANCE, AND OTHER SOCIAL ILLS. PARTY POLICY IS TO RECOGNIZE AND PROMOTE WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN ZAMBIA AND NUMBER OF WOMEN CURRENTLY OCCUPY SENIOR POSITIONS IN PARTY (3 CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS), CABINET (MINISTER OF HEALTH), PARLIAMENT (7 MP'S), AND DIPLOMATIC SERVICE (2 APPOINTED AMBASSADOR RANK). PARTY WOMEN'S BRIGADE HAS LAUNCHED MAJOR POLITICAL EDUCATION EFFORT IN CONNECTION WITH IWY IN WHICH STRESS HAS BEEN PLACED ON PROMOTING GOOD MORAL BEHAVIOR, REMOVING INEQUITIES IN COMMON AND TRADITIONAL LAW, AND BROADER PARTICIPATION IN PARTY AND PUBLIC ACTIVITIES. AT SAME TIME PARTY LEADERS ARE AT PAINS TO DISASSOCIATE ZAMBIAN IWY ACTIVITIES FROM THOSE OF WESTERN "WOMEN'S LIB" MOVEMENTS, SOME EXTREME DEMANDS OF WHICH ARE JUDGED BE IRRELEVANT TO ZAMBIAN SITUATION.

5. DEVELOPING COUNTRY OVERWHELMINGLY DEPENDENT UPON ONE EXPORT--COPPER--FOR ITS RELATIVELY FAVORABLE (FOR AFRICA) STANDARD OF LIVING, ZAMBIA SUPPORTS THIRD WORLD INITIATIVES LIKE NIEO AND CERDS. IF OPPORTUNITY CAN BE FOUND, WE WILL SPEAK TO MISS KAWANDAMI ALONG LINES STATE 119806. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT CONSIDER ZAMBIAN DELEGATION HAS SUFFICIENT STRENGTH, NUMBERS, OR EXPERIENCE TO PROVIDE EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP WITHIN THIRD WORLD OR AFRICAN BLOCS AT WCIWY. LIKELY IT WILL GO ALONG WITH AFRICAN CONSENSUS, COORDINATING IN PARTICULAR WITH TANZANIAN DELEGATION.

6. WE UNAWARE OF ANY PLANS FOR ZAMBIAN PARTICIPATION IN UNOFFICIAL "TRIBUNE".
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